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the author admits that many writers and judicial opinions take a different stand (p. 26).

Although some might regard a different theoretical basis as equally accurate and more apt to keep pace with the future development of international law, no careful reader can fail to grasp Professor Oppenheim's conceptions and to admit the logical accuracy of his deductions, admitting the initial assumptions. As has been said, the author asserts himself a positivist, but the manner of presentation suggests that the legal conclusions flow by deduction from fundamental definitions. Historical incidents and precedents appear as illustrations of *a priori* truth, while in so typically English a book as W. E. Hall's, they appear as the truth itself, of which propositions of law are merely convenient generalizations. The difference is, however, of form rather than substance, and the conclusions of the two men differ but little.

The comprehensiveness of the treatise is, to the mind of the reviewer, its greatest merit. The history of the subject is briefly but suggestively considered and, in the body of the work, incidents, judicial decisions, monographs and treaties are exhaustively reviewed and cited in support of the author's position on every conceivable question of international law. The discussion of treaties is particularly full, including the peace treaty with Germany and the League of Nations Covenant (chap. V). The chapters on international responsibility and international administrative unions are also notable.

Professor Oppenheim is favorable to the League of Nations Covenant though suggesting some improvements, but he regards talk of an international police force under its direct authority as utopian (pp. 294, 637). He considers the maintenance of a balance of power as essential if international law is to be preserved, and "the existence of the League of Nations makes a balance of power not less but all the more necessary because an omnipotent state could disregard the League of Nations" (p. 94). From his historical summary Professor Oppenheim draws seven "morals," one of which appears to be his conclusion on the war. "The progress of international law," he says, "is intimately connected with the victory everywhere of constitutional government over autocratic government, or, what is the same thing, of democracy over autocracy" (p. 95).

One hesitates to criticize the accuracy of a book of such acknowledged excellence as Oppenheim, and few opportunities are offered. The statement, however, that in the United States "customary international law" as well as "law-making international conventions ratified by the United States are binding upon American courts, even if in conflict with previous American statutory law," is not sustainable.

The literary style of the book, though accurate, is at times heavy and verbose. The reader often meets with somewhat odd expressions such as "not-full sovereign state" (p. 19), "state-like" (p. 22), "international interest of sufficient vigor to wind a band around all civilized states" (p. 49), "vicarious responsibility" (p. 258). These expressions are, however, clear and add a certain flavor to the work.

The editor and printer appear to have done their work well. This is believed to be the first treatise on international law incorporating the peace treaties and will be welcome to students of the subject. It is hoped that Mr. Roxburgh will soon have the second volume, on war and neutrality, ready.

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POLITICAL THOUGHT IN ENGLAND. By HAROLD J. LASKI. New York: HENRY HOLT & Co. 1920. pp. 320.

Beginning with the English Revolution of 1688, Mr. Laski states the theories

of many political thinkers, particularly of Locke and Hobbes through Hume and Blackstone to Burke and Adam Smith, in a critically historical vein, analyzing, criticising and comparing each in connection with the historical conditions of their periods. He follows the political theorists through the disputes concerning the relation of Church and State arising out of the principles of the Revolution of 1688 involving the doctrine of Divine Right and the repression of the Non-jurors, suggesting that "the State is built upon the consciences of men" (p. 89). England under the Georges is then characterized as steeped in political stagnation though, all the while, the current of thought was quietly running on. Hume "gave a new turn to speculation" (p. 143) and Burke marked the turning point between the old and new thinkers brought into being by the American War, the French Revolution and the English Industrial Revolution. "The ideas of Hume and Adam Smith shifted the whole perspective of men's minds" (p. 281) though conditions were ripe for the change, for "the movement for religious toleration . . . is in a real sense the parent" (p. 282) of that economic freedom stated by some writers as resulting when the state functions to defend its citizens, maintain justice among them and erect certain public works and institutions; by others, when its well-being is considered merely "in terms of the volume of trade," or Bentham's greatest happiness of the greatest number, with pleasure, in a high sense, as the supreme end of human life.

The several theories of government, such as the doctrine of consent, the social compact, individualism, enlightened selfishness, and so forth, are all incidentally considered in the phrases of the various political theorists—their incompleteness and their chaotic metaphysical basis pointed out.

The book is thus a history of political thought during an important period in the history of Anglo-Saxon development, and indicates the importance of the writings of the theorists in interpreting, affecting and even causing, the material reactions primarily considered history. It covers the field thoroughly though it is too small for the wealth of research and thoughts that fill its pages. Mr. Laski as thus forced to state, criticize and compare, in a form of close reasoning at times difficult to follow, and almost to suppress his own opinions. The subject treated, however, is well worth while from a strictly American point of view; the work is well done and the result well worth the required careful reading.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS. By J. FRANKLIN CROWELL. Preliminary Economic Studies of the War No. 25. New York: OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. 1920. pp. xiv, 357.

SECESSION AND CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY. By BUNFORD SAMUEL. New York: NEALE PUBLISHING Co. 1920. Vol. I. pp. 403; Vol. II. pp. 435.

INTERNATIONAL LAW DOCUMENTS. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE. Washington, D. C.: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE. For 1905, pp. 206; 1906, pp. 140; 1907, pp. 176; 1908, pp. 255; 1909, pp. 193; 1910, pp. 128; 1911, pp. 132; 1912, pp. 206; 1913, pp. 203; 1914, pp. 169; 1915, pp. 122; 1916, pp. 153.

THE CASE OF REQUISITION. By LESLIE SCOTT and ALFRED HILDESLEY. Oxford: THE CLARENDON PRESS. 1920. pp. xiv, 307.